

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

----- 028286

O 241235Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4468

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 AMMAN 2738

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF, CB, JO

SUBJECT: SECOND CAMBODIAN REQUEST FOR POLITICAL ASYLUM -
AMBASSADOR HONG HOENG DOEUNG

REF: (A) AMMAN 2621; (B) STATE 090644

1. SUMMARY: IN SECOND CASE THIS WEEK, KHMER AMBASSADOR HAS REQUESTED POLITICAL ASYLUM IN U.S. FOR HIMSELF, WIFE AND SIX FAMILY MEMBERS RESIDENT AMMAN INCLUDING TWO WHO WORKED FOR U.S. EMBASSY IN PHNOM PENH. AMBASSADOR DOEUNG GAVE AMBASSADOR LETTER TO SECRETARY KISSINGER WHOM HE MET DURING 1973 ARTICLE 20 NEGOTIATIONS IN PARS, WHEN DOEUNG WAS CHARGE. DOEUNG HAS DISTINGUISHED DIPLOMATIC CAREER, WAS CLOSE ADVISOR OF LON NOL AND LONG BORET. ONCE JAILED BY SIHANOUK AND WITH LONG ACTIVE ANTI-COMMUNIST CAREER, HE APPEARS LIKELY TO SUFFER PERSECUTION IF HE RETURNED TO CAMBODIA. DOEUNG IS ALSO FORMER TEACHER KHMER ROUGE LEADER KIEW SAMPHAN AND DOUBTS WHETHER RECENT WIREPHOTO PICTURE WITH SIHANOUK IS ACTUALLY OF SAMPHAN. DOEUNG IS IN NO DANGER, GOJ HAS ASSURED HIM OF ABILITY REMAIN JORDAN FOR TIME BEING AND HE IS IN NO FINANCIAL NEED. HE SAYS ALL FIVE MEMBERS OF EMBASSY AND FAMILIES INTEND REQUEST POLITICAL ASYLUM IN U.S. BUT REQUESTS WE NOT INFORM GOJ FOREIGN MINISTRY OF THESE REQUESTS. END SUMMARY.

2. KHMER AMBASSADOR DOEUNG CALLED ON AMBASSADOR APRIL 24 DURING WHICH HE REQUESTED POLITICAL ASYLUM FOR HIMSELF AND FAMILY AND LEFT LETTER FOR SECRETARY KISSINGER REQUESTING ASYLUM, INCLUDING CURRICULUM VITAE AND CERTIFICATES FROM U.S. EMBASSY
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PHNOM PENH THAT DAUGHTERS HONG VATHANA AND HONG DAVY WORKED FOR

EMBASSY. WE ARE POUCHING LONG LETTER (IN FRENCH) TO DEPARTMENT UNDER COVERING AIRGRAM.

3. IN SUMMARY, LETTER REQUESTS POLITICAL ASYLUM FOR FOLLOWING PERSONS ALL RESIDENT IN AMMAN. (KHMER PASSPORT DATA ALSO INCLUDED).

- A. HONG HOEUNG DOEUNG, AMBASSADOR OF KHMER REPUBLIC TO JORDAN;
- B. MRS HONG HOEUNG DOEUNG, WIFE;
- C. MRS HEM DORA, DAUGHTER, AGE 25; WORKED AT EMBASSY OF U.S. IN PHNOM PENH;
- D. MR HEM DORA, SON-IN-LAW FILM PRODUCER, AGE 26;
- E. MISS HONG VITHANA, DAUGHTER, AGE 24; WORKED AT U.S. EMBASSY IN PHNOM PENH;
- F. MISS HONG VIRA, DAUGHTER, AGE 21, STUDENT;
- G. MR HONG WITHYAWUTH, SON, AGE 19, STUDENT;
- H. MISS HONG LYDIA, DAUGHTER, AGE 13, STUDENT;

4. LETTER STATES HE REQUESTS POLITICAL ASYLUM IN U.S. BECAUSE IT NOW EVIDENT THAT THE NEW GOVERNMENT OF KHMER ROUGE WOULD REJECT HIM AND ONLY PERMIT HIS RE-ENTRY TO CAMBODIA IN ORDER TO PERSECUTE HIM AND HIS FAMILY, BECAUSE OF HIS ANTI-COMMUNISM AND HIS ASSOCIATION WITH LON NOL REGIME IN WHICH HE CLOSELY COLLABORATED WITH U.S. GOVERNMENT BOTH AT U.N. AND AT PARIS. LETTER STATES HE BELIEVES, WITH HELP OF USG, HE COULD WORK AS EXPERT IN PUBLIC IN PRIVATE SECTOR CITING HIS 29 YEARS OF SERVICE AS PROFESSOR OF FRENCH AND AS DIPLOMAT AS PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS. HIS TWO DAUGHTERS AND SON-IN-LAW COULD ALSO WORK, WHICH WOULD ALLOW THEM DECENT LIVING IN U.S. AND TO ESCAPE "A CERTAIN PERSECUTION OF PART OF KHMER ROUGE COMMUNISTS". LETTER CLOSES EXPRESSING TO SECRETARY HIS GRATITUDE AND UNTIRING DEVOTION TO U.S. AND TO FREE WORLD IN GENERAL.

5. DOEUNG'S CURRICULUM VITAE:

- 1946-54- SECONDARY SCHOOL TEACHER;
 - 1954- DIRECTOR, ECOLE DES BEAUX ARTS;
 - 1955-60- CHEF DE BUREAU IN FOREIGN MINISTRY;
 - 1960-4- FIRST SECRETARY, CAMBODIAN EMBASSY CAIRO;
 - 1964-6- DIRECTOR GENERAL OF ECONOMIC, SOCIAL, CULTURAL AFFAIRS, FOREIGN MINISTRY;
 - 1966-70- COUNSELOR, CAMBODIAN EMBASSY RANGOON;
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- 1971- DIRECTOR GENERAL OF POLITICAL AFFAIRS, FOREIGN MINISTRY;
 - 1971-4- MINISTER PLENIPOTENTIARY, CHARGE D'AFFAIRS A.I. OF KHMER EMBASSY, PARIS;
- DIPLOMAS:
- SECONDARY STUDIES;
 - PEDAGOGICAL STUDIES;
 - INSTITUT NATIONAL D'ETUDES JURIDIQUES, POLITICS AND ECONOMICS;
 - ANCIEN ELEVE DE L'ECOLE NATIONALE D'ADMINISTRATION, FIRST

PROMOTION OF DIPLOMATIC SECTION;
DECORATIONS:
--MEDAILLES DE L'ORDRE DU MERITE DU NIL;
--MEDAILLE DE L'ORDRE DU MERITE FRANCAIS.

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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O 241235Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4469

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 AMMAN 2738

EXDIS

6. AMBASSADOR GAVE FOLLOWING REASONS HE IS SURE HE WOULD BE PERSECUTED UPON RETURN TO CAMBODIA. HE IS A WELL-KNOWN POLITICAL OPPONENT TO SIHANOUK AND HAS LONG ANTI-COMMUNIST RECORD. IN JANUARY, 1954, SIHANOUK JAILED HIM FOR SIX MONTHS FOR HIS COLLABORATION WITH SIN HUK TAN IN ANTI-COMMUNIST CAMPAIGN. HE WAS SEC GEN OF PARTI DEMOCRAT IN 1952-54 WHICH ORGANIZED ELECTIONS AGAINST SIHANOUK.

7. MORE RECENTLY HE RALLIED SUPPORT IN 1970 IN EMBASSY IN RANGOON FOR LON NOL GOVERNMENT, WAS DIRECTOR OF POLITICAL AFFAIRS IN FOREIGN MINISTRY AND THEN CHARGE D'AFFAIRES IN PARIS 1971-73. IN LATTER CAPACITY, HE WORKED CLOSELY WITH USG DURING PARIS PEACE TALKS. HIS PRIMARY CONTACT WAS MARK PRATT, INTERMEDIARY BETWEEN HIS GOVERNMENT AND US DELEGATION. HE MET DR KISSINGER IN 1973 AS ASSOCIATE WITH GENERAL SAK SUTSAKHAN DURING SIGNING OF ARTICLE XX REGARDING RETREAT OF FOREIGN FORCES FROM CAMBODIA.

8. REGARDING IMMEDIATE SITUATION, HE INDICATED GOJ FOREIGN MINISTRY ASSURED HIM HE AND MEMBERS OF MISSION MAY REMAIN IN JORDAN FOR IMMEDIATE FUTURE. EMBASSY HAS SUFFICIENT FINANCIAL RESOURCES

FOR ANOTHER TWO MONTHS AND HE SEES NO IMMEDIATE ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW REGIME EMBASSY HERE. HE HAS SOME PERSONAL FINANCIAL RESOURCES WHICH COULD TIDE THEM OVER FOR A SHORT PERIOD AFTER ARRIVAL IN US. CONFIDENTIAL

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HE HAS TWENTY HECTARES PLUS SEVERAL HOUSES IN CAMBODIA BUT HAS NO HOPE OF UTILIZING THEM. HE HAS A MOTHER-IN-LAW, A BROTHER AND SOME OTHER RELATIVES IN CAMBODIA. HE HAS NO RELATIONS IN THE US.

9. HE INDICATED HE IS A FORMER TEACHER OF PREVIOUS PREMIER LONG BORET, AS WELL AS NEW KHMER ROUGE PREMIER KIEW SAMPHAN. INCIDENTALLY, HE MENTIONED THAT RECENT WIRE PHOTO OF SAMPHAN WITH SIHANOUK RAISED DOUBTS IN HIS MIND WHETHER INDIVIDUAL WAS ACTUALLY SAMPHAN. BASED ON HIS RECOLLECTION, THE INDIVIDUAL IN THE PHOTOGRAPH APPEARED TALLER IN RELATION TO SIHANOUK THAN SAMPHAN AND DID NOT RESEMBLE HIM.

10. AMBASSADOR DOEUNG SAID HE BELIEVES ALL FIVE OFFICERS OF KHMER EMBASSY IN AMMAN WILL REQUEST POLITICAL ASYLUM IN U.S. (EMBASSY COUNSELLOR WHO EARLIER REQUESTED SAYLUM HOWEVER ASKED US PRIOR TO AMBASSADOR'S MEETING NOT TO INFORM AMBASSADOR DOEUNG OF THAT FACT.) AMBASSADOR REQUESTED, HOWEVER, THAT WE NOT INFORM GOJ OF HIS REQUEST FOR TIME BEING.

1. WE RESPONDED BY STATING THAT WE COULD OBVIOUSLY MAKE NO COMMITMENT REGARDING POLITICAL ASYLUM REQUEST BUT WOULD FORWARD IT EXPEDITIOUSLY TO USG. AMBASSADOR IS PATIENT BUT OBVIOUSLY HOPEFUL THAT HIS LONG AND DISTINGUISHED RECORD OF ANTI-COMMUNISM AND SERVICE TO PREVIOUS REGIME, ALONG WITH OBVIOUS PERSECUTION HE WOULD SUFFER IF RETURNED TO CAMBODIA, WILL PROVIDE AMPLE GROUNDS FOR SYMPATHETIC CONSIDERATION OF HIS REQUEST. HE AND OTHER MEMBERS OF MISSION APPEAR COMFORTABLE FOR PRESENT AND UNDER NO DURESS OR FINANCIAL HARDSHIP. THEY WILL, HOWEVER, EXPECT SOME ANSWER IN NEAR FUTURE. THEY ALL APPEAR TO DISMISS PROSPECTS OF POLITICAL ASYLUM IN JORDAN AS PATENTLY UNFEASIBLE. NOR DO THEY HAVE ANY ACTIVE PROSPECT OF RESETTLING OUTSIDE U.S., DESPITE OUR ATTEMPTS TO PROBE ALTERNATIVES (AS SUGGESTED PARA 3 REFTEL B). PICKERING

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